

so long as they live, they have to keep their body and soul together. Thus year by year, the rich become richer and the poor poorer. The process is continuing at a fast rate and the people do not realize it. They are too ignorant and attribute everything to their fate and God's will. To add to these evils, in some years crops fail and there will be utter starvation. Thus the causes of indebtedness are—

- (1) High rent.
- (2) Population beyond means of subsistence.
- (3) Lands limited in area.
- (4) Absolute dependence on land of the population.

There is no instance of debtors who have entirely liberated themselves from debt in this desam. There is no co-operative society.

Sanitation.—In regard to sanitation, thanks to the peculiar customs of Malabar, the evils arising from the rigour of social rules are absent. Infant marriage and purdah are both absent. There is no problem of the disposal of night-soil here, for there are large unoccupied areas whither the people resort, while the women have latrines far out in their back compounds. As for insanitary habits, they are not addicted to any similar to what are found elsewhere. All bathe once a day in tanks or streams. There is neither much smoking or snuffing, but there is chewing (betel and tobacco and lime and arecanut all together) among all people, but not to such an extent as among people in Madras, etc. Drinking is a real evil among the Cherumas, but this is chiefly due to lack of proper food of other sorts. Several of them when asked why they drink have given the same unanimous answer, that "while stomach calls, one must respond, else not hear at all." The latter is of course the cheaper course.

Good and clear water for drinking is easily got from private wells.

But with all these, the figure for the year of deaths from diseases and infant mortality is not encouraging.

The list contains the account of only one year that of 1915-16. But it still speaks for itself.

Kothachira.

Ages of dead.	Number according to age.	Fever.	Dysentery.	Tuberculosis.	Diarrhoea.	Dyspepsia.	Hysteria.	Karapani (skin blotched).	Other causes.
Lifeless birth ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Below 1	9	...	3	...	...	...	4	...	...
Between 1 and 10	13	4	3	1	...	...	4	1	...
" 10 " 20	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 20 " 30	7	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
" 30 " 40	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 40 " 50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" 50 " 60	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
" 60 " 80	5	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3
Total ...	48	11	8	4	3	...	8	3	4